



Parks Foundation

CLARK COUNTY

Inspiring kids of all ages to connect with nature.

July 2010

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Community Grants Awarded

The Parks Foundation, through our Community Grant Award program, distributed \$28,371 in support of Clark County parks, trails, and recreation programs at the June 21 annual meeting and luncheon.

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation's Take Back Evergreen Park Neighborhood Playground Program \$8,000. This summer playground program provides recreational activities for children ages 5-12 creating a positive, safe atmosphere for children living in this neighborhood.

City of Washougal Beaver Park Development \$4,271. This grant will be matched by the City of Washougal's Park Impact Fund to provide a Raptor Dig play feature in the park.

City of Battle Ground Traveling Summer Playground Program \$4,400. This 10-week, free traveling playground, will visit four parks once a week for two hours per week this summer providing fun, recreational, organized play for children ages 3-8.

Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Nature Play Demonstration Area \$5,000 funded through the **Firstenburg Family Foundation**. This project supplemented existing play opportunities at the LeRoy Haagen Community Park through the addition of nature play features that will encourage children to explore, learn, and have fun in a natural, unstructured environment.

Camas Parks and Recreation City Event Tent \$2,800 funded through **Georgia-Pacific**. In addition to serving the City of Camas' Parks and Recreation Department, the new event tent will be shared with other local public agencies and cities.

City of Ridgefield Water Fountain for Davis Park \$2,500 funded through **Corwin Beverage**. Davis Park provides playground and open space supporting non-supervised and non-organized recreational opportunities for children in both the 3-5 and 5-12 age groups. Thank you Corwin Beverage for adding a water fountain to the list of Davis Park amenities!

Town of Yacolt Security Lighting and Signage for Yacolt Town Park \$1,400 funded in partnership with **US Bank**. The Parks Foundation is proud to partner with US Bank in providing funding for security lighting and safety signage in this newly redesigned and upgraded park.



Reaching the Summit

More than 350 people attended the inaugural Nature Play Summit. The event, which was held at the Vancouver Hilton, was generously sponsored by Jan and Steve Oliva and the Firstenburg Family Foundation, with support from Community Choices, Support for Early Learning & Families (SELF), Clark County Public Health, Washington Recreation and Parks Association, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, and Vesta Hospitality.

Schuyler Hoss, Regional Representative for Washington State Governor Chris Gregoire, issued a formal welcome from the Governor in the main ballroom to start the day.

Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods", the seminal treatise on the potential harmful consequences resulting from the disconnection between children and nature, was the luncheon keynote speaker. "As children, we all had a special place we could go to be at one with nature. As adults, oftentimes, that special place is where we go in our minds to find calm and peace in our lives," Louv said. "Children also need that special place."

Louv's presentation, citing the effects of "nature deficit disorder" on kids today, resonated with the crowd of professionals and community members. Attendees included parents, educators, library and



Kids playing at newly constructed Nature Play area at LeRoy Haagen Community Park.

parcs professionals, elected officials, recreation equipment manufacturers and distributors, and health providers.

Louv addressed the staggering number of children currently being medicated for ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), and the lack of funding for studies that could, theoretically, substantiate and scientifically utilize the calming properties of nature. His premise is a warning that without the awareness of adults who remember their early connection with nature, the next generations will suffer an irretrievable loss.

The keynote took place between breakout sessions in the morning and afternoon. A total of sixteen sessions covered topics such as "Best Practices for Creating Naturalized Play Environments," "Supporting Schools' Sustainable and Educational Goals with Nature Play," and "Connecting Youth to Nature through Gardening."

The luncheon and summit served as the culmination of a series of events focused



Mr. Louv graciously autographed copies of his book, "Last Child in the Woods," for a long line of inspired audience members.



Nature Play Summit continued

on bringing the Nature Play message to citizens of Clark County.

On Saturday, June 19, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation coordinated a work party to construct a new Nature Play area at LeRoy Haagen Community Park (9th Street and NE 136 Ave). About 50 volunteers spent the day turning a patch of grass into a place for kids to connect with nature. Funding for the construction for the park was provided



Thank you volunteers!

by the Firstenberg Family Foundation with in-kind support from Frontier Landscaping and Landscape Management & Services.

Then on Monday, June 21, the Parks Foundation's annual meeting and luncheon welcomed National Wildlife Federation, Regional Education Manager Courtney Sullivan as keynote speaker. Courtney shared information about the National Wildlife Federation's "Be Out There" program and specifically focused on ways parents can introduce their children to the wonders of nature.

"Nature Play is a safe, non-formal type of play. Playing hide and seek in the woods; walking across fallen logs; counting bird calls; watching a butterfly float from flower to flower; creating stories of great outdoor adventures; or just watching the clouds sail by," said Parks Planning and Development Manger, Jane Kleiner. "It all starts with an accessible natural area close by and a healthy imagination. Our department is committed to doing all it can to instill Nature Play in the lives of our community's children."

Be a Parks HERO!
Help Ensure Recreation Opportunities

Yes, I am a hero!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____
 Phone _____

- Sign me up for monthly enews
- I want to learn more about the benefits of Planned Giving
- The Parks Foundation of Clark County is a benefactor of my will
- I would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities

\$ _____ \$25 Individual Membership

\$ _____ \$50 Family Membership

\$ _____ Additional Donation

\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed *Thank you!*

Payment: Cash Check Visa Mastercard

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ CVC # _____

Name as it appears on card _____





10th ANNUAL PARKS FOUNDATION CLASSIC



Monday, August 16th
Camas Meadows



Schedule

- Registration Opens 11am
 - Lunch 11am – 12:30pm
 - Putting Contest 11:30am – 12:30pm
 - Shotgun Start 1pm
 - Social and Silent Auction 6pm
 - Dinner 7pm
- Individual and Team Prizes!**

Calling all golfers!

Reserve your spot today! <http://parksfoundation.us/events.php>

Team Package

\$675 per 4 member team
Includes green fees, shared golf
cart, gifts, dinner.

Individual

\$185 per person
(portion tax deductible)
Includes green fees, shared golf
cart, gifts, dinner.

Additional dinner guest(s)

\$45 per person



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